

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 00872 191850 Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, COMECON, CZ, GE, HU

SUBJECT: GDR- HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

REF: BUDAPEST 2047

1. EAST GERMAN PRESS GAVE MAY 3-7 BERLIN MEETING OF GDR- HUNGARIAN COOPERATION COMMISSION PERFUNCTORY TREATMENT. NEUES DEUTSHLAND (ND) OF MAY 8 ONLY PUBLISHED TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE AND BRIEF REPORT ON RECEPTION OF DEPUTY PREMIER TIMAR BY WILLI STOPH. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF ANY RAUCHFUSS STATEMENT.

2. AS REGARDS HUNGARIAN APPRENTICES OR TRAINEES IN GDR,
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FIGURES CITED BY TIMAR (PARA TWO REFTEL) DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM DATA CARRIED IN GDR PRESS. ACCORDING TO MOST RECENT REPORT ON SUBJECT (ND OF APRIL 4, 1973), ABOUT 11,000 YOUNG HUNGARIANS WERE AT THAT TIME WORKING IN THE GDR AND APPROXIMATELY 18,000 HAD DONE SO SINCE SIGNING OF GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT IN 1967. ND OF NOVEMBER 25, 1972, QUOTED HONECKER AS TELLING SULZBERGER OF NY TIMES THAT 13,000 HUNGARIANS, PRIMARILY YOUTHS, WERE EMPLOYED AS APPRENTICES IN GDR AND THAT FDJ (GDR YOUTH ORGANIZATION) INTENDED TO SEND YOUNG PEOPLE TO HUNGARY.

3. JUST CONCLUDED GDR- HUNGARIAN AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN GLASS AND CERAMICS SECTOR APPARENTLY RESULTED FROM PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT IN BUDAPEST IN JULY 1972 BY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. WE UNDERSTAND PROJECT INVOLVED IS CONSTRUCTION IN GDR BY HUNGARIANS OF A CERAMICS PLANT TO PRODUCE SANITARY EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS SINKS, BATHROOM FIXTURES, ETC. OUTPUT OF SUCH A FACILITY WOULD PROBABLY FIND A READY MARKET IN GDR; ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, COMPLETION OF MANY RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN GDR HAS BEEN DELAYED BACAUSE OF SHORTAGE SUCH EQUIPMENT.

4. TIMAR' S REMARKS (APAR THREE REFTEL) CONCERNING JOINT GDR- CZECH- HUNGARIAN COOPERATION IN AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION CONFIRM EARLIER REPORTS ABOUT PLANS FOR SUCH COOPERATION. WHILE THOSE REPORTS DID NOT IDENTIY HUNGARIAN ROLE IN PROJECT, THEY INDICATED THAT CZECHS WERE TO PRODUCE MOTORS AND EAST GERMANS GEAR BOXES, CRANKSHAFTS, CLUTCHES AND STEERING MECHANISMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT HAS ALSO BEEN RUMORED THAT GDR INTENDS HALT PRODUCTION OF TWO- STROKE TRABANT AND WARTBURG DURING 1976-1980 PLAN PERIOD IN ORDER TO COOPERATE WITH SKODA IN MASS PRODUCTION OF FOUR- STROKE MODEL. KLEIN

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